

# Jeffersonian Republican.

Richard Nugent, Editor]

THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST.—Jefferson.

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## POETRY.

### Hymn to the North Star.

The sad and solemn Night  
Has yet her multitude of cheerful fires;  
The glorious host of light  
Walk the dark hemisphere till she retires;  
All through her silent watches, gliding slow,  
Her constellations come, and round the heavens, and go.

Day, too, hath many a star  
To grace his gorgeous reign, as bright as they;  
Through the blue fields afar,  
Unseen, they follow in his flaming way.  
Many a bright lingerer, as the eve grows dim,  
Tells what a radiant troop arose and set with him.

And thou dost see them rise,  
Star of the Pole! and thou dost see them set.  
Alone, in thy cold skies,  
Thou keep'st thy old, unmoving station yet.  
Nor join'st the dances of that glittering train,  
Nor dip'st thy virgin orb in the blue western main.

There, at Morn's rosy birth,  
Thou lookest meekly through the kindling air;  
And Ere, that round the earth  
Chases the Day, beholds thee watching there;  
There Noonday finds thee, and the hour that calls  
The shapes of polar flame to scale heaven's azure walls.

Alike, beneath thine eye,  
The deeds of darkness and of light are done;  
High towards the star-lit sky  
Towns blaze—the smoke of battle blots the sun—  
The night-storm on a thousand hills is loud—  
And the strong wind of day doth mingle sea and cloud.

On thy unaltering blaze  
The half-wrecked mariner, his compass lost,  
Fixes his steady gaze,  
And steers, undoubting, to the friendly coast;  
And they who stray in perilous wastes, by night,  
Are glad when thou dost shine to guide their footsteps right.

And, therefore, bards of old,  
Sages, and hermits of the solemn wood,  
Did in thy beams behold  
A beautiful type of that unchanging good,  
That bright, eternal beacon, by whose ray  
The voyager of time should shape his heedful way.

## Revolutionary Memorials.

(CONCLUDED.)

I cannot say, that my sensations on recognising my former sergeant were altogether agreeable. The mysterious manner in which he both came and went, the success with which he had thrown a veil over his own movement, and the recollection that I was the guest of a man, who probably entertained no sense of honour, either public or private, excited in me a vague and undefined alarm, which I found it impossible on the instant to conceal. I started and the movement was not lost upon Champe. He examined my face closely; and a light appearing to burst in all at once upon his memory, he ran forward towards the spot where I sat. "Welcome, welcome, Captain Cameron," said he, "a thousand times welcome to my roof; you behaved well to me while I was under your command, and deserve more of hospitality than I possess the power to offer; but what I do possess is very much at your service, and heartily glad am I, that accident should have thus brought us together again. You have doubtless looked upon me, as a two-fold traitor and I cannot blame you for that. Yet I should wish to stand well in your estimation, too, and therefore I will, if you please, give a faithful narrative of the causes which led both to my arrival in New York, and to my abandonment of the British army on the shores of the Chesapeake. But I will not enter upon the subject now. You are tired with your day's travel; you stand in need of food and rest. Eat and drink, I pray you, and sleep soundly; and to-morrow, if you are so disposed, I will try to put my own character straight in the estimation of the only British officer of whose good opinion I am covetous." There were so much frankness and apparent sincerity in this, that I could not resist it, so I sat down to supper with a mind perfectly at ease; and having eaten heartily, I soon afterwards retired to rest, on a clean pallet, which was spread for me on the floor. Sleep was not slow in visiting my eyelids; nor did I awake until long after the sun had risen on the morrow, and the hardy and active settlers, to whose kindness I was indebted, had gone through a considerable portion of their day's labour. I found my host the next morning, the same open hospitable and candid

man that he had shown himself on first recognizing me. He made no allusion, indeed, during breakfast, to what had fallen from him over night; but when he heard me talk of getting my horses ready, he begged to have a few minutes' conversation with me. His wife, for such my hostess was, immediately withdrew, under the pretext of attending to her household affairs, upon which he took a seat beside me and began:—

"I trust you will believe me when I say, that nothing can be a matter of more perfect indifference to me than the estimation in which I may be held by the individuals composing Arnold's legion; for the whole of whom, from their commanding officer downwards, I entertain the most sovereign contempt. But you are a Briton born. I found you to be an honourable and a right-minded man; and though I believe that you erred in drawing your sword against the liberties of America, I still respect you so much, that I would not willingly rank as a traitor in your eyes. I have therefore resolved to tell you a tale, which I should not think it worth while to tell to any other man, unless I knew him to be genuine American in his principles and feelings.

"You remember under what circumstances it was that I arrived at New York. I came to you as a deserter; bearing on my name the full load of obloquy which attaches to that character, and exposed to all the dangers which attend the career of one who has once betrayed a trust which he had sworn to hold sacred. Sir, I was no deserter. Mine was a deed—unusual I allow, and most suspicious in its colouring; but performed not only under the sanction of General Washington but at his positive desire. Listen, and I will tell you all.

"You will be at no loss to imagine that the discovery of Arnold's treason, accompanied as it was by the seizure of one of the partners in his crime, created a great sensation throughout our army. So deep, indeed was the feeling of disquiet and distrust, that no man seemed to be aware on whom reliance might be placed; that no man would have ventured to become surety for the faith of his own brother. That the General shared in this uneasiness all ranks acknowledged but the extent to which the feeling on his part was carried, remained a secret to all, till to me, and to me alone, it was communicated. I will tell you how this befel, at least how I myself came to be honoured with Washington's confidence.

"While Arnold and our commander-in-chief were carrying on their infamous correspondence, our army under the temporary orders of Gen. Greene, occupied a position as you doubtless recollect, in the vicinity of Tappan. Lee's legion, of which I was sergeant-major held the outposts; and I think you will allow that a corps better qualified to perform such service has rarely been embodied. Well, I had gone through the ordinary routine of my business; I had ascertained that the guards were planted—that the patrols were told off, and that the horses and accoutrements of the men not immediately on duty were in order; when, about nine o'clock one night, I received a message from Major Lee, that he desired to see me on particular business. I repaired to his quarters without delay, and found him evidently labouring under a considerable degree of excitement. He was walking up and down the apartment with a short and irregular step, and he no sooner caught the sound of my foot within the threshold, than he desired me, without stopping, to bolt the door. I did so, and then he turned towards me.

"Champe, said he, 'you scarcely need that I should tell you, that if there be a man in my legion, in whom, more than all the rest, I am disposed to place reliance, it is yourself. I have watched you ever since you joined the corps. I have found you uniformly brave, discreet, orderly, sagacious, full of ambition, yet of ambition of the most legitimate kind, and I know that you feel yourself to be on the high road to promotion. I am going to put all your good qualities to the test; and I ask from you no pledges to secrecy, because I am confident that none such are needed.'

"What reply could I make to such an address? I merely bowed, thanked my officer, and assured him, that whatever man could do for him, or for America, I would at least attempt.

"Aye" continued he, "I knew all that. If I desire you to storm a battery of cannon, you will do it, even if you go alone. If I say to you, that your country requires you to undergo all manner of hardships, you will endure them. But the business on which I am about to employ you is different from both of these, Champe, you must desert—you must go over to the enemy."

"I started as well I might, but before I could interpose a word, he went on—'Hear me out, and then say whether you are willing to accomplish the wishes of the commander-in-chief or not. For I tell you, in the outset, that I am but a medium of communication between Washington and yourself; and you know as well as I, that Washington is incapable of requiring at any man's hands, services which shall so much as appear to imply a dereliction of honour.'

"You are aware, of course, of the distressing consequences of Arnold's treason—of the anx-

iety and misgivings which it has occasioned throughout the army; and of the peril into which it has brought the life of the English Major Andre. You cannot, however, know, till I inform you, how the General is affected by it. I have had with him to-day a long and deeply interesting interview, in which he showed me some letters from — and — of New York, both of whom represent the plot as widely extended, and both unite in accusing General —, of all men living, of a participation in it. Now Washington's confidence in General — has been heretofore unbounded. If any thing be due, moreover, to the universal consent of all ranks, General — deserves that confidence; yet so thoroughly has it been shaken by the treachery of Arnold, that he can no longer experience a moment's repose. This, he told me with a flushed cheek, and a choking voice; and he added, that to clear up his doubts, it was necessary that some trustworthy person should pass to New York, should hold verbal intercourse with his informants, and sift the whole affair to the bottom. But he does not intend that the services of his agent shall end here. If Arnold could be seized and brought back to camp, not only might Andre's life be saved, but there would be effected such an example, as would for ever deter all American officers from playing, under any circumstances, the part of traitors. Having thus opened his plans, he did me again the honour to say, that he was sure I could find among my gallant fellows the very person of whose services he stood in need. I felt highly flattered by such an announcement, and I did not for one moment hesitate as to my answer. I accepted the proposal, and Champe, I named you as the man. Are you ready to earn immortal honour for yourself and your fellow-soldiers, and to do the most important services to your country, by carrying through this delicate and hazardous scheme for your General?"

"You and I, Captain Cameron, have not seen a great deal of one another, yet you will, perhaps, believe me when I say that there are not many men who hold bodily danger more lightly than the individual who now addresses you. Of ambition, likewise, I admit that I always had my share; I strove hard for a commission, and I was pretty sure that, on the first vacancy, I should get one. It was not, therefore, from any disinclination to face the hazards of the exploit that I felt reluctant to accede to this proposal. But the idea of desertion—of committing, or seeing to commit, an act which must necessarily throw down the fabric of an honourable name, which I had so long labored to erect—that did, indeed, startle me. I thanked the Major for the opinion he entertained of me—I repeated my readiness to attempt any thing which should not imply disgrace—but I begged respectfully to decline a service, the very first act in obedience to which must place me in a light the most distressing to my own feelings, and the most odious to others. I could not even feign to be a traitor. The Major, however, had made up his mind that I, and I alone, should carry through this business. He pointed out that even desertion, perpetrated at the request of the General-in-chief was not disgraceful—that if it did bring on the head of an individual temporary shame, the mind, capable of reflection, would not balance between the accomplishment of a great public good and the endurance of a slight personal evil; and that the cloud, however dark for the moment, would make the contrast the more striking, when the truth came to be disclosed, and a full burst of glory should follow. But I own to you that the argument which weighed most with me, was his appeal to my 'esprit du corps.' What will our comrades say, after this gallant exploit shall have been performed, when they come to be told, that it was proposed to one of their own number, and by him rejected? I could not hold out against this consideration—so I told the Major, that, relying on his honor to see my fame vindicated in the event of any untoward accident befalling to myself, I would give myself up to his guidance, and obey such instructions as he might furnish. These were soon explained. I was directed to wait upon — and — with letters which were handed to me: I was cautioned not to let the one know that the other had any communication with our camp; and above all, I was told that no personal injury should be done to Arnold, inasmuch as it was his capture, not his life, that was sought. "If, therefore, continued the Major, you find that you cannot seize him unharmed, do not seize him at all; and if the choice be between his escape and his slaughter, let him go. To kill him, would give the enemy an excuse for alleging all sorts of falsehoods against us. But if you can bring him alive to head-quarters, so that he may be tried by a court-martial, and publicly executed, you will at once further the ends of justice, on an atrocious traitor, and strike a salutary terror into the minds of his associates."

"Being thus forewarned as to the course which it behoved me to follow, I proceeded to arrange with the Major the best mode of carrying his device into operation. No written document could be given for the purpose of forwarding my progress beyond the lines, because such a procedure would unavoidably come

to the enemy's knowledge and defeat the whole project. Neither was it possible to remove out of the way any portion of the numerous posts and patrols that lay between the quarters of our cavalry and the neutral ground. There seemed nothing, therefore, but to dare the worst, and putting myself under the guidance of fortune, to act as if I really were a deserter from the cause which I had conscientiously espoused. All that Major Lee could undertake amounted to this—that in case my absence should be discovered before morning, he would delay pursuit as long as possible. This was the more important, because it would be necessary for me to take a tortuous course, and to proceed with extreme caution in the dark; yet even this depended so much on accident, that to effect it might lie beyond his reach. Nevertheless I had nothing better to rely upon; so setting our watches together, (and it was then near eleven o'clock) and receiving from him three guineas to defray immediate expenses. I went forth to undertake an enterprise in every sense more hazardous than any in which I had been previously employed.

"Having reached the camp, I proceeded without a moment's delay to roll up my cloak, to pack my valise, thrusting into it the orderly-book, and to strap both upon my horse, after which I buckled on my sword and mounted. I passed through the lines unnoticed; but had not proceeded half a mile beyond them, when a mounted patrol, advancing by a cross road, observed me, and challenged. I made no reply—but plunging the rowels into my horse's flanks, I galloped forward. The patrol did not follow far, yet I felt that my chances of concealment were over, and that not all the Major's management could long hinder a pursuit from being instituted. I rode on therefore, full of anxiety and alarm, for which, as the event proved, there was good reason. For the patrol which met me was composed of a part of Lee's legion; and the Captain of the day lost no time in reporting to the Major, in person, all that had befallen. I have since learned all that passed, so I can inform you of it.

"Lee had retired to bed as soon as I quitted him, and strove to sleep; but his efforts availed him nothing. A generous and high-minded soldier, he could not think of the dangers to which he had exposed a comrade without horror; and I may say without vanity, that there was not a man in the legion whom he respected more than myself. He tossed about, therefore, restless and uncomfortable; and was conjuring up all sorts of direful images, when some one rapped loudly at his door, as if earnest for immediate admission. Lee's heart sank within him as he desired the applicant to enter—and when he heard the officer state, in a hurried and excited tone, that a dragoon had been met near the lines, who put spurs to his horse when challenged, and escaped—a conviction of the truth came fearfully over him.

Yet he retained his self-possession—and desiring to protract the interval of pursuit as long as possible, he affected to be very sleepy, and instead of noticing the communication that had just been made, complained of being disturbed. The Captain of the day now repeated his report in more pressing language than before, so that it became impossible to affect ignorance of his meaning. Another device was accordingly adopted. First, he began to put various questions—then he ridiculed the idea that any individual from the legion—a corps, which during the whole war, had lost but one man from desertion—would abandon his colours; and last of all, he desired the officer to return to Camp, and by personal inspection of the horses to ascertain whether any were missing. By such manoeuvring as this a little time was gained,—but it was only a little; for scarce half an hour had elapsed from the period of my quitting the lines, when Major Lee received the report of the Captain of the day. That officer, moreover, in his eagerness to vindicate the honor of the legion, made quick work with his inspection,—and soon returned to announce, that the name of the traitor was ascertained. He asserted that I was the man—and that I had gone off with my arms, accoutrements, necessities, and even with the orderly-book of the regiment. Again was Lee's ingenuity taxed in order to spin out the interview. He would not believe that I had deserted. I was probably gone off, on some excursion of pleasure—a grave offence, doubtless, and subversive of all discipline,—yet not without its examples among the officers, and entertaining as all did a high opinion of my honour, it would never do to act with such precipitation as to disgrace me in the eyes of my comrades. Still the matter ought to be looked to, and a party must be ordered for pursuit. This too was done—and the Major, desiring to inspect it in person, gave directions that it should muster in front of his quarters. The men came—but the officer in command was not the individual whom he desired to employ. He had another service in view for him; he must, therefore, give up the charge to Cornet Middleton, a youth of a peculiarly humane temper, and hence more likely than most to deal gently with the fugitive should he be overtaken. Ten minutes more were thus gained; at the conclusion of which

Middleton made his appearance, when written instructions were handed to him, signed, as the custom of our army required, by the Major himself. These required him to follow—as far as a regard to his own safety would permit—a deserter who was supposed to have gone off in the direction of Paulus' Hook; to bring him back a live that he might suffer in the presence of his comrades; but in the event of his offering resistance, or making any effort to escape after he should once be taken, to put him to death. The delivery of this—the verbal hints and cautions which the Major judged it right to throw out—the injunctions to take care of the horse and arms if recovered, and to guard well against surprise, sufficed to carry them through five minutes more—so that on the whole I had a full hour, or perhaps an hour and a quarter's start. But as if to counterbalance this very inadequate advantage, a shower of rain fell soon after I set out, just sufficient, and not more than sufficient, to make my horse leave a palpable track along the road. Now, as all our chargers were shod by the same farrier, and the shoes made after a peculiar pattern; a track once taken up could not, by those who were acquainted with it, be easily lost; and no set of fellows throughout the army knew better than Lee's dragoons how to track both friend and foe by their foot prints. "Notwithstanding the conviction that the pursuers were already on my track, I was compelled, so soon as I shook off the patrol that had challenged, to resume a slow and cautious pace; not only because the whole country before me swarmed with bands of irregulars, but because I was every moment in danger of falling upon one or other of the posts which were established in front of the lines, and withdrawn in the morning "when day began to dawn, therefore, I was yet several miles to the north of Bergen, and almost as far, by what is called the near cut, from a bridge by which the Hackensack is traversed. A wide and open plain, moreover, was before me; and to crown all, there came down upon the morning air an indistinct clatter, as of horses moving at a brisk trot in the same direction with myself. I looked around; and sure enough, on the summit of an eminence which overhangs the "Three Pigeons," I beheld a strong patrol of cavalry. There was no possibility of mistaking their design; so I plunged the spurs into my horse, and dashing forward, took at a venture, the road to Bergen. "I heard their shouts in pursuit, for scarce a half a mile divided us, and in a still morning sounds extend far. I guessed, too, that these troops to whom every foot of the country was familiar, would not neglect the near cut to the bridge, yet I trusted in my own ingenuity to baffle them still, and never for an instant lost courage. Bergen I gained before they could recover a sight of me, which an intervening wood had cut off, and judging that nothing could serve my purpose so well as to throw them off my trail, I rode down one paved street and up another without hesitation. This done, I changed my route, and instead of keeping the road to Paulus' Hook, I turned my face westward, and made for the Hudson. Of what followed you are aware. My horse, my scabbard, and belt, fell into the hands of the pursuers; I myself escaped, and threw away my weapon only when I could no longer retain it in the water.

"Of my arrival in New York, and of what first befel me there, it is unnecessary that I should say more, than that being conducted into the presence of your commander-in-chief, I was by him closely examined touching the condition and temper of the army which I had abandoned. Perfectly secure in the persuasion that the circumstances under which I came would shield me from suspicion, I answered vaguely—for I could not endure the thought, even to myself of doing otherwise,—yet I contrived to make the General fancy that I had communicated to him, highly important details, and that I was a person worthy of patronage. You know, perhaps, how he urged me to enlist in your service; and how I evaded the proposition by pleading the dangers to which I should be exposed, in case any accident should afterwards throw me into the hands of my countrymen. The fact, however, was, that my plans were not yet sufficiently matured to warrant my taking such a step. Neither would I venture to take it without the sanction of my own chief; with whom, unless Major Lee had been deceived, I knew that means of communication lay open. I accordingly held out against his entreaties, and withdrew to the quarters which were assigned me. But I had other business in hand, and to that I gave my earnest attention. I waited upon Washington's agents. I found them in every respect such as they had been represented to be; and I opened out to each exactly that portion of my scheme which I knew that he would be both able and willing to forward. Through one I obtained full and accurate information on the subject of the supposed treason of General —, and great was my satisfaction at being able to report that the calumny has no foundation in truth, with the other I deliberated respecting the best means of securing Arnold. Yet I do not deny that when intelligence reached me, that Andre's fate was fixed—that he had himself, by his manly de-